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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of

**FIRE et al.**

Appl. No. 09/215,257

Group Art Unit: 1633

Filed: December 18, 1998

Examiner: D. Nikodem

FOR: GENETIC INHIBITION BY DOUBLE-STRANDED RNA

\* \* \* \*

Monday, December 4, 2000

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2000 (Paper No. 12), entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows.

*A1*  
*Sub B1*

1. (Amended) A method to inhibit expression of a target gene in a cell comprising introduction of a ribonucleic acid (RNA) into the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit expression of the target gene, wherein the RNA comprises a double-stranded structure with an identical nucleotide sequence as compared to a portion of the target gene of at least 25 bases in length.

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Claim 12, line 2, replace "loss-of" with --loss of--.

Repln. Ref: 12/05/2000 SDENB0B1 000/464600  
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